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REDDITCH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.



A N N U A L R E P O R T
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
and
SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR 1946.

1. The first part of the paper is devoted to a discussion of the general principles of the theory of the structure of the atom.

2. The second part of the paper is devoted to a discussion of the general principles of the theory of the structure of the atom.

REDDITCH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT FOR THE YEAR 1946.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

(a) L. J. Bacon, M.A., M.D., B.Chir., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health (Part Time) and Assistant
County Medical Officer.

Dr. V. Pugh, B.Sc. M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
Deputy Medical Officer of Health (Part Time) and
Assistant County Medical Officer (April to December).

(b) G. H. Champion, Cert. "S.I.B."
Senior Sanitary Inspector,
Meat and Food Inspector,
Inspector under the Shops Acts.
Ambulance Officer.

T. Hope, Cert. "S.I.B."
Additional Sanitary Inspector, (January to June)

G. H. Smith, Cert. "S.I.B."
Additional Sanitary Inspector.
Meat and Food Inspector, (September to December)

Miss A. Lilley - Senior Clerk (On active service till November)

Miss L. M. Phillips - Senior Clerk (Temporary)

Miss S. Marios - Junior Clerk.

DISTRICT MEDICAL OFFICERS.

Dr. W.H. Whyment, M.B., Ch.B.,	Redditch, Part Time.
Dr. P. Dawes, M.R.C.S. (England))	Feckenham, " "
L.C.R.P. (London))	
Dr. W.T. Mitchell; M.B. Ch.B.,)	Beoley,
(Glasgow, 1922))	Ipsley, " "
)	Upper Ipsley " "

PUBLIC VACCINATORS.

Dr. W.H. Whyment, M.B., Ch.B.,)	Redditch
Dr. P. Dawes, M.R.C.S. (England))	Feckenham,
L.R.C.P. (London))	
Dr. W.T. Mitchell; M.B., Ch.B.,)	Beoley,
(Glasgow, 1922))	Ipsley,
)	Upper Ipsley.



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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE REDDITCH
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you my Annual Report on the health of the Redditch Urban District for the year 1946.

The Minister of Health has intimated that the Report should again be produced in the restricted form of the war-time years; but has asked for special reference to diphtheria immunisation and the steps taken to combat infestation.

In the statistical section, I have followed the usual practice of giving comparable statistics for the past two years, so that the current trend may be followed: I have also again included for comparison the figures for 1938, the last pre-war year.

The outstanding problem in the public health field is of course that of housing, which is discussed in Section D.

The present time is one of transition, and to some extent of unrest. Big changes in public health administration are to be expected when the National Health Service Act of 1946 is implemented. During 1946, and even at the time of writing, it is difficult to form a clear picture of the extent to which your Council's powers and duties in respect of public health will be affected by the new Act: it would seem however that the control of environmental hygiene and of infectious disease, which forms the bulk of the Council's work in this field, will remain unaffected.

I have pleasure in recording my appreciation of the co-operation of the Public Health Committee and of the Council's officers throughout the year, and in particular of the loyal support accorded to me in my own Department.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area - 12,059 acres.

Registrar General's Estimate of
resident population, mid 1946 - 26,040
" 1945 - 25,470
" 1944 - 25,940
" 1938 - 22,560

Number of inhabited houses, end of 1946 - 7,574
" " 1945 - 7,443
" " 1944 - 7,437
" " 1938 - 7,116

Rateable Value, 1st. October 1946 - £142,219

Sum represented by a Penny Rate - £567.

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTH RATE (Births per 1,000 population) :-

<u>1946</u>	<u>1945</u>	<u>1944</u>	<u>1938</u>	<u>1946 (England & Wales)</u>
20.4	18.9	24.0	14.5	19.1

Live Births			
	M	F	Total
Legitimate	238	248	486
Illegitimate	26	19	45
Total	264	267	531

ILLEGITIMACY RATE (Total live illegitimate births per 1,000
total live births) :-

<u>1946</u>	<u>1945</u>	<u>1944</u>	<u>1938</u>
84.7	56.1	26.6	38.1

STILL-BIRTH RATE Still-Births per 1,000 total births :-

<u>1946</u>	<u>1945</u>	<u>1944</u>	<u>1938</u>	<u>1946 (England & Wales)</u>
25.7	30.2	28.9	38.1	27.0

Still-Births			
	M	F	Total
Legitimate	6	7	13
Illegitimate	1	-	1
Total	7	7	14

DEATH RATE (Deaths per 1,000 population) :-

<u>1946</u>	<u>1945</u>	<u>1944</u>	<u>1938</u>	<u>1946(England & Wales)</u>
9.9	11.4	11.1	11.8	11.5

Deaths		
M	F	Total
118	141	259

MATERNAL MORTALITY (Maternal deaths per 1,000 total births) :-

<u>1946</u>	<u>1945</u>	<u>1944</u>	<u>1938</u>	<u>1946(England & Wales)</u>
Nil	2.08	Nil	2.95	1.43

Maternal Deaths	
Puerperal Sepsis	0
Other maternal cause	0
Total	0

INFANTILE MORTALITY (Deaths of infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 related live births) :-

	<u>1946</u>	<u>1945</u>	<u>1944</u>	<u>1938</u>	<u>1946(England & Wales)</u>
Legitimate	24.7	48.5	30.4	41.4	-
Illegitimate	66.7	74.1	69.0	142.8	-
Total	28.2	47.8	32.1	45.7	43.0

Infant Deaths			
	M	F	Total
Legitimate	5	7	12
Illegitimate	1	2	3
Total	6	9	15

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE REDDITCH URBAN DISTRICT, 1946.

CAUSE OF DEATH	M	F	TOTAL	MORTALITY RATE PER 1,000 POP:
1. Typhoid & paratyphoid fevers	0	0	0	0
2. Cerebro-spinal fever	0	0	0	0
3. Scarlet Fever	0	0	0	0
4. Whooping Cough	0	0	0	0
5. Diphtheria	0	0	0	0
6. Tuberculosis of Respiratory system.	5	4	9	0.35
7. Other forms of Tuberculosis	2	1	3	0.12
8. Syphilitic Diseases	2	0	2	0.08
9. Influenza	0	1	1	0.04
10. Measles	0	0	0	0
11. Acute polio-myelitis and polio-encephalitis	0	0	0	0
12. Acute infectious encephalitis	0	0	0	0
13. Cancer of buc.cav. & oesoph. and uterus	0	1	1	0.04
14. Cancer of stomach & duodenum	5	6	11	0.42
15. Cancer of breast	7	5	12	0.19
16. Cancer of all other sites	14	9	23	0.88
17. Diabetes	0	6	6	0.23
18. Intra-cranial vascular lesions	8	15	23	0.88
19. Heart Disease	33	40	73	2.80
20. Other diseases of circulatory system	2	4	6	0.23
21. Bronchitis	8	6	14	0.54
22. Pneumonia	9	5	14	0.54
23. Other respiratory diseases	3	3	6	0.23
24. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	2	0	2	0.08
25. Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	0	1	1	0.04 X
26. Appendicitis	1	0	1	0.04
27. Other digestive diseases	3	5	8	0.31
28. Nephritis	3	5	8	0.31
29. Puerperal & post-abortion sepsis	7	0	7	0
30. Other maternal causes	1	0	1	0
31. Premature birth.	3	2	5	0.19
32. Congenital malformations, birth injuries etc.	2	4	6	0.23
33. Suicide	1	0	1	0.04
34. Road Traffic accidents	1	1	2	0.08
35. Other violence	2	0	2	0.08
36. All other causes	9	17	26	1.00
Total	118	141	259	9.95
(X Rate per 1,000 live births = 1.88)				

The Vital Statistics for the area compare favourably with those for the country as a whole, and, with the exception of the Illegitimacy Rate, they show an improvement on last year's statistics.

The Birth Rate (20.4) is satisfactory.

The Illegitimacy Rate (84.7 per 1,000 live births) compares very badly even with last year's unsatisfactory figure. It would be difficult if not impossible to obtain precise information as to why one in every twelve babies born in Redditch was illegitimate. No doubt social, economic, and ethical factors combine to produce this result - and the relative importance of these factors will be judged by each according to his bent. It is not, so far as causation

is concerned, a health problem: but as regards results it is, for neglect and ill-health are frequently the lot of these illegitimate children.

The Death Rate (9.9) is remarkably low. The major causes of death were :-

1. Diseases of the Heart & Circulatory System (including apoplexy),	40.9%	of all deaths
2. Cancer (all forms)	15.4%	" " "
3. Respiratory Diseases (excluding T.B.)	13.5%	" " "
4. Tuberculosis	4.6%	" " "

Tuberculosis has steadily diminished as a cause of death in recent decades: its actual significance still remains higher than the percentage figure would suggest, because it so frequently strikes in early adult life. The circulatory diseases are, on present knowledge, largely non-preventable, and provide the major certified cause of "natural" death in old age. The same may be said of many of the respiratory deaths. Cancer is a steadily increasing cause of death throughout the country (actually the Redditch figure is lower than last year's), and since it is curable if detected sufficiently early, this cause of death must be regarded as preventable.

The following table shows the percentage distribution of deaths according to age :-

Deaths by Age	
Age in years	%
0 - 1	5.8
1 - 14	1.5
15 - 44	9.7
45 - 64	23.9
65 and over	59.1

It is pleasing to be able to record that there were no maternal deaths in childbirth during the year, and that the Still-Birth Rate (25.7) shows a marked improvement upon recent previous years. These two facts taken together reflect creditably upon the ante-natal and obstetric services available to Redditch mothers.

The Infantile Mortality Rate (24.7) is likewise very satisfactory, comparing with 43.0 for England and Wales.

Taking still-births and infant deaths together, 29 children out of 545 born failed to reach one year of age.

SECTION B.GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.Services provided by the County Council.

The County Council, as Welfare and Education Authority, provides the majority of the personal health services for the District. These services include :-

(a) Clinics and Treatment Centres.

Clinic	Situation	Time of Holding
Redditch Infant Welfare Centre	Old Vicarage, Bromsgrove Road.	Monday & Tuesday, 2 p.m.
Astwood Bank Infant Welfare Centre, (Including Diphtheria Immunisation)	Church Hall, Astwood Bank.	2nd. & 4th. Mondays, 2 p.m.
Feckenham Infant Welfare Centre. (Including Diph. Imm.)	Village Hall, Feckenham.	1st. Wednesdays, 2 p.m.
Antenatal Clinic	Old Vicarage.	Tuesdays, 10 a.m.
School Clinic	Old Vicarage.	Thursdays, 11.30 a.m.
Dental Clinic	Old Vicarage.	Wednesdays and Fridays, 10 a.m.
Orthopœdic Clinic	Old Vicarage.	Mondays, 10 a.m.
Tuberculosis Centre	The Dispensary, Elm Road.	Fridays, 2 p.m.
Diphtheria Immunisation	Old Vicarage.	2nd. & 4th. Thursdays, 9.30 a.m.

A great deal of valuable work, directed towards the preservation of health and the prevention of disease, is carried out in these Clinics by the Medical and Nursing staff. In the Welfare Centres there is additional assistance, which is greatly appreciated, from voluntary workers.

(b) Midwifery Services (domiciliary).

Midwives in private practice and employed by the District Nursing Associations are supervised for this purpose by the County Council.

(c) Laboratory Facilities. The County Analyst undertakes the examination of clinical material (throat-swabs, sputum, blood, etc.), water, milk and foodstuffs.

(d) Hospitals. The following Hospital facilities are available, most of which are provided, directly or by arrangement, by the County Council :-

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Infectious Disease (including Tuberculosis) | Bromsgrove, Droitwich and Redditch Joint Hospital (Bromsgrove) |
| 2. Tuberculosis | Knightwick Sanatorium and Hayley Green Sanatorium. |
| 3. Smallpox | W.C.C. Smallpox Hospital, Worcester. |

4. Maternity	Mary Stephens Maternity Hospital, Stourbridge; and Lucy Baldwin Maternity Hospital, Stourport.
5. Children's diseases	The Children's Hospital, Birmingham.
6. Tonsil & adenoid cases	Smallwood Hospital, Redditch.
7. Puerperal Fever & Pyrexia cases	The General Hospital, Birmingham. The Royal Infirmary, Worcester.
8. Venereal Disease	The General Hospital, Birmingham. The Royal Infirmary, Worcester.
9. Public Assistance Cases (General)	The Bromsgrove Public Assistance Institution.
10. Public Assistance Cases (Mental)	Barnsley Hall Mental Hospital, Bromsgrove; and Powick Mental Hospital, Malvern.

In addition to the foregoing hospital-facilities provided by or through the County Council, Redditch residents have access to the Smallwood Hospital for general illness. Also there were, in 1946, two privately provided Nursing Homes (supervised by the County Council), which took chiefly maternity cases.

The Diphtheria Immunisation Service. (see Section F) is provided jointly by the Urban District Council and the County Council, the latter being responsible for the immunisation of children under five years of age.

The Ambulance Service. An ambulance is provided by the Joint Hospital Board for the conveyance of infectious cases. For other cases, an ambulance is provided by the Urban District Council. Thanks are due to the St. John's Ambulance Brigade, whose members have given valuable assistance in staffing the ambulance at week-ends and during holiday periods.

Health Education. The Council subscribes to the Central Council for Health Education. In May 1946 display-racks were placed in the British Restaurant, the Libraries (Redditch and Astwood Bank), the Food Office, and the Rates Department, for the exhibition of educational leaflets which were free to the public. The leaflets were changed week by week throughout the remainder of the year. They were prepared by the Central Council, and related to such matters of personal and environmental hygiene as care of the feet, digestion, relaxation and sleep, rest, prevention of spread of disease, prevention of flies, and prevention of accidents. Approximately 1,000 leaflets were distributed to the public in this way during the year.

Publicity in respect of Diphtheria Immunisation was undertaken in conjunction with the national campaign; the personal approach by the medical and health visiting staff of the County Council being supported by advertisements in the local press; the display of posters, and the exhibition of slides in the cinemas.

SECTION C.SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Sanitary Inspection has been maintained at a level adequate to deal with all complaints, and in addition to carry out certain limited surveys. The scope of these surveys could with advantage be greatly extended; but limitations of staff, due particularly to the heavy demands on time associated with the investigation of applications for building licences, has so far precluded this. Details of the inspections made are included by the Senior Sanitary Inspector in his report.

WATER SUPPLY.

There has been no substantial change in the water supply to the District during the year. The great majority of the houses in the area are supplied with piped water from the East Worcestershire Waterworks Company, and this water is sampled every month by the Company, and is constantly found to be pure and wholesome. In addition to the samples taken at the bore-holes, the water in circulation has since October 1946 been sampled periodically at randomly selected points throughout the District. In all, 37 samples have been analysed, both chemically and bacteriologically, and the results have been uniformly satisfactory.

Particulars of the water-supply available in the District are as follows :-

	Number of Houses.	Approximate Population.
Piped supply direct to the house.	6,959	24,200
Served by standpipe.	475	1,700
Served by well or spring.	140	500

Approximately 140 dwelling-houses are still dependant upon well-waters, and some of these are known to be polluted. The areas particularly affected are Ipsley, Berrow Hill, Wadbury Hill, Tippings Hill, and Bradley Green. Schemes to extend the mains to these areas (with the exception of Ipsley) have been formulated but not carried into effect. The implementation of these proposals, which would bring a pure water-supply to about 60 houses, is a necessary contribution to the public health of Redditch. Two wells were abolished, and mains supply laid on, during the year.

Those dwelling-houses which are served by stand-pipes have the use of an adequate supply of wholesome water but, owing to their relative inaccessibility, stand-pipes do not make for a high standard of personal or domestic hygiene.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Apart from new building-sites, there was no major extension of sewerage during the year, and approximately 10% of the houses in the District are dependant upon conservancy methods for the disposal of their sewage. Nuisance from overflowing cesspools recurs intermittently, particularly in the Bordesley area. Special attention was paid during 1946 to the abolition of pail-closets, and an extended account of this survey is given in the Senior Sanitary Inspector's Report appended hereto. Despite difficulties in obtaining materials and labour, ten premises previously provided with pail-closets were connected to the sewers; and eleven premises previously dependant upon cesspools were similarly connected.

The Sewage Disposal Works continued to give satisfactory service during the year.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Refuse collection and disposal are supervised by the Surveyor.

Bins are normally emptied fortnightly. This frequency is barely sufficient to prevent nuisance arising in hot weather: it leaves no reserve for unavoidable delay, and when owing to adverse weather-conditions, holidays, etc., there is any extension of the fortnightly interval, complaints are received in the Health Department. Householders experience some difficulty in obtaining replacements for defective bins.

Disposal is by tipping, and the tips are inspected periodically by the Sanitary Staff. Nuisance from rats or flies has occasionally been reported, but has not been serious in degree; full control of tipping so as completely to eliminate nuisance is not practicable with the limited staff at present available for the work.

RIVERS POLLUTION.

In March 1946, as an indirect result of the notification of a case of enteric fever, samples were taken of the water in Salters Lane Brook which, shortly before it enters the Batchley Road Housing Estate, carries an extensive growth of water-cress. The samples were found to be heavily polluted, and the pollution was traced to the sewage-disposal plant at Howell Grange (in the Bromsgrove Rural District). The Grange was at that time occupied by the Military, and the disposal-plant was overloaded, so that a grossly undertreated effluent was discharged into the brook. As an immediate step, the brook was cleared of edible cress and notices warning against the gathering of cress were displayed. The question of remedying the source of the trouble was taken up with the Rural District Council; the matter however solved itself temporarily as the Military vacated Howell Grange, and when subsequently this was taken over by the Home Office arrangements were made for the disposal-plant to be connected to the Redditch sewers.

SWIMMING BATH.

The indoor swimming-bath, provided by the Council and supervised by the Surveyor, was open from 1st. April till September 30th. The water is in closed circulation and is subjected to continuous rapid filtration and chlorination.

PUBLIC SHOWERS.

The Bathing Station in Evesham Street, originally provided during the war as a Gas Cleansing Station, continued until November 1946 to be available to the public for shower-baths. With the diminution in the numbers of troops stationed in the District, demands upon the showers fell to a low level, and it became uneconomical to continue them.

VERMINOUS PREMISES.

On the whole, infestations of premises are rare in Redditch. A few instances of bug and flea infestation were dealt with during the year.

RODENT CONTROL.

It is believed that all major infestations by rats have now been brought under control in those parts of the District for which your Council is responsible - that is to say, in all but agricultural premises and lands, which are the responsibility of the War Agricultural Executive Committee.

The Ministry of Food introduced a Domestic Premises Survey

Scheme in July, 1946; and implementation of the scheme commenced in Redditch in August. Essentially, this involved a house-to-house survey, and its objective was to detect and eliminate minor infestations, with a view to preventing new major infestations from being built up. The results of this survey, so far as it took place in 1946, are included in the Senior Sanitary Inspector's Report.

Two "maintenance treatments" of sewers revealed only very trivial infestation.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

The only business carried on in Redditch which is subject to supervision as an "Offensive Trade" is a knackers yard. This is kept under observation and complies with all reasonable sanitary requirements.

FACTORIES.

The Council has duties under the Factories Act, 1937, to maintain a register of factories; to inspect them and be satisfied as to the adequacy of sanitary conveniences and means of escape from fire, and as to suitability of drinking water supplies; to supervise all factories in which no mechanical power is used in respect of cleanliness, overcrowding, temperature-control, ventilation, and drainage of floors; to inspect all bakehouses and see that the special requirements of the Act are met; and to supervise the working conditions of Home Workers.

This work was maintained during the year, and the Senior Sanitary Inspector includes in his Report a statement of inspections made etc..

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Redditch is fortunate in not being troubled to any extent by smoke from factory chimneys. The domestic hearth is, however, responsible for much pollution of the atmosphere and I look forward to the time when scientific achievement can produce a smokeless fuel at a price within reach of all consumers. It is also to be hoped that with the development of post-war housing attention will be paid to the installation of heating-appliances which do not produce smoke, including grates capable of burning smokeless fuels.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

The normal work of the Public Health Department in respect of housing is mainly carried out in pursuance of the requirements of the Housing Act 1936 and the Public Health Act 1936, and comprises (i) the maintenance of dwelling-houses in a sanitary and habitable state (ii) the demolition or closure of individual houses which are insanitary and cannot be repaired at reasonable expense (iii) the clearance or redevelopment of areas where insanitary dwellings are congested ("slum clearance") and (iv) the prevention and abatement of overcrowding.

In every one of these four fields of work - which taken together constitute one of the major contributions which the Department can make to the health of Redditch - work is slowed down almost to a standstill.

The maintenance of houses in a sanitary state requires labour and materials. These have been so limited that it has been difficult even for the willing landlord to meet his obligations: while the owner who would prefer not to spend money on his property is provided with a ready-made excuse so that it is hard to bring the pressure of the law upon him. Licences are required for building-materials: investigation is required before licences can be issued. As houses deteriorate complaints increase. So the work of investigation has become exceptionally heavy, while the fruits of the work seem at times hardly worth the labour. Repairs are in fact restricted to urgent necessity - i.e. houses are kept weatherproof, free from physical danger, and clear of gross filth: no more. The diversion of labour and materials to new building is an understandable enough policy; but one cannot help feeling that to keep ten houses from becoming derelict is more worth while than building one new one.

The other three housing-functions of the Health Department all require for their exercise the provision of new housing-accommodation: so in all only the most restricted achievement was possible in 1946. Because an insanitary house is better than none, demolition and closure are considered only when a building becomes physically dangerous: so no Demolition Orders were made during the year, notwithstanding that well over 200 houses are known to be totally unfit. "Slum-clearance" is completely in abeyance. Overcrowding is rife, and for lack of alternative accommodation it cannot be relieved. The Housing Act standard of overcrowding is altogether unsatisfactory; but there can be no question of adopting higher standards while even this cannot be achieved. "Permitted numbers" are exceeded. Lack of bedrooms precludes proper segregation of the sexes. Infants and older children must share beds with their parents. Women must be confined in homes where no separate room or facilities are available. Young couples start their married lives in the crowded homes of their parents. Old people are crowded together with little children, so that the former have none of the peace and quiet that they have a right to expect in their declining years, while the latter are curbed in their natural and healthy activities.

I have laid stress on this problem of overcrowding because an account of the health of the people of Redditch in 1946 would be incomplete without it. It is a major social factor whose influence on health is hard to measure but is undoubtedly great. It is not of course a problem peculiar to Redditch: indeed, the essential remedy - new houses - is forthcoming in Redditch more effectively than in many other similar towns.

The development of Council-owned housing has raised in acute form the very difficult problem of selection of tenants. This is not primarily a function of the Health Department; but the Council's "points scheme" gives full weight to such health factors as overcrowding, insanitary accommodation, and sickness, and consequently a large proportion of applications call for investigation by the Sanitary staff.

Precise information as to the numbers of unfit houses, and the prevalence and degree of overcrowding, is lacking: a new survey is needed. As regards overcrowding such a survey could give information of only limited value, since the situation is constantly changing: and even in respect of unfit houses the rate of deterioration, owing to lack of maintenance, is such that the number is rapidly increasing. Nevertheless, a new survey is an essential preliminary to remedying the position, and was in fact commenced in 1946.

One result of the shortage of housing has been an increase in applications for the use of temporary and moveable dwellings. These require supervision, and the Council's policy has been to grant licences for limited periods in respect of dwellings on a few satisfactory sites only. Another direct result of the housing shortage was an influx of "squatters" into the District in August 1946 and subsequently these people took up residence in the unoccupied single men's quarters in a large housing estate belonging to the Ministry of Aircraft Production. The minimal essential requirements to make the premises habitable were eventually met, and officers of the Health Department gave what assistance they could, though responsibility for these dwellings is not vested in the Local Authority.

During the year ⁷⁵~~1945~~ Council houses were built, 25 permanent, 50 temporary; ⁵⁴~~51~~ houses also were built by private enterprise, making a total of 129 new houses during the year.

SECTION E.INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.(1) FOOD PREMISES.

All premises where food is prepared, stored, or sold are subject to inspection to ensure that they comply with the requirements of Section 13 of the Food and Drugs Act 1938. This Act has not in general been fully implemented yet, owing to the intervention of the war. A general "tightening-up" of the control of food in all stages of preparation, storage, transport, and sale is needed, in order to diminish wastage of food due to spoiling, and to minimise the risk of food-borne disease. Cleanliness of premises, utensils, and personnel is the essential requirement: provision of adequate washing-facilities, and education in their use, are necessary prerequisites. Increasing attention has been paid to this work during 1946, but shortage of labour and materials has to some extent stood in the way of necessary structural improvements.

A detailed survey of all food-premises in the District is planned for 1947-8. Eating houses in particular call for close supervision.

(2) MEAT.

The control of slaughtering, meat-inspection, and meat-transportation is now in the hands of the Ministry of Food. Complaints of soiling of meat arriving in Redditch due to unsatisfactory transport arrangements have been received in the Public Health Department; and representations to the Ministry of Food have resulted in improvement in the condition of the vans.

By informal arrangement the private slaughter of pigs for home-consumption has been subject to inspection in many instances, and diseased meat has been diverted from human consumption. Slaughtermen's licences have been renewed subject to the requirement, among others, that a humane killer shall be used. Slaughtering is still centralised, and a declaration of the Government's future policy as regards

slaughtering is awaited. Centralised slaughtering has proved advantageous in a number of respects, and is likely to remain; but it is not yet clear whether slaughter-houses are likely to be controlled by the Ministry of Food, the Local Authorities, or the meat-trade.

(3) MILK.

There were 80 dairy-farms registered in the Redditch District in 1946: the approximate number of milch-cows was 950, and the average total daily output about 2,400 gallons, which exceeds by about 19% the milk consumed in the District. There were 4 producers of T.T. Milk and 11 of Accredited milk in the District: and of the total milk consumed (whether produced in the District or not) approximately 11% was T.T., 50% Pasteurised, 10% sterilised, and the remaining 29% was raw undesignated milk. No T.T. pasteurised milk was sold as such, and all milk from Accredited producers was pasteurised or sold as raw undesignated milk.

The work of the Health Department in respect of milk comprises (1) the registration of dairymen and dairy farms and the issue of licences to deal in designated milks (2) the inspection and supervision of all cow-sheds and dairies, and of the health and cleanliness of dairy-workers (3) the submission of samples for analysis under the Milk (Special Designations) Orders, to ensure that the special standards applicable to designated milks are maintained (4) the submission of samples of non-designated milk under the Milk and Dairies Orders, for bacteriological examination as a check on cleanliness in production, and (5) the investigation of complaints as to uncleanliness of milk or bottles, premature souring, etc. This work was carried out during 1946 as fully as possible with the staff available, and details of inspections etc. are given in the Senior

Sanitary Inspector's Report, together with a summary of the results of analyses.

It is a pleasure to be able to record that all samples of milk were found to be satisfactory. Nevertheless it is to be remembered that these are only samples, and represent an infinitesimal part of the milk sold in Redditch; and against these results is to be set the fact that the conditions at the farms are not in all cases satisfactory, and some of the raw non-designated milk supplied must be regarded as potentially productive of disease. It would seem that the difficulties of clean milk-production are such that the objective of a safe milk supply in the district can only be met by pasteurisation of all non-designated milk.

The "appointed day" under the Food and Drugs (Milk & Dairies) Act 1944, when control of milk-production will pass from Local Authorities to the Ministry of Agriculture, has not yet been announced.

ICE CREAM.

The methods of control and production of ice-cream came in for a good deal of attention during 1946. Before the war, ice-cream had come to be recognised as of an importance, from a public-health point of view, comparable with that of milk. Very variable in food-value, it was at its best highly nutritious: and whether of high or low food-value it was, owing to its nature and the methods of its production, an important potential vehicle of disease. During the war, production ceased. After the war, demand was high and profits tremendous, with the result that production boomed in 1946. With this there came a demand from Sanitary Authorities for increased powers to control the cleanliness and quality of ice-cream: and the outbreak of typhoid fever in Aberystwyth in July and August drove the point home.

Samples were taken from all producers and many retailers throughout the season, and were submitted for analysis. There are no legal standards for ice-cream, but the results of analysis (set out in the Sanitary Inspector's Report) clearly indicated that certain dealers were retailing a dirty product, and also brought out the worthlessness, from a nutritional point of view, of some samples. In view of the difficulty in obtaining raw materials, no attempt was made to encourage the sale of ice-cream of high nutritional value: attention was centred upon cleanliness of production and the attainment of a satisfactory bacteriological analysis. Firms whose product proved unsatisfactory were visited; and the process of ice-cream production followed through from beginning to end, attention being concentrated on cleanliness of premises, utensils, and staff at every stage. The result was invariably a marked improvement in subsequent samples.

Following the typhoid outbreak in Aberystwyth, all Redditch ice-cream dealers were interviewed and inquiry made as to a history of typhoid, paratyphoid, dysentery, or other "diarrhoeal" disease in any member of the staff. No such history was obtained in any case.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING 1946 :-

Disease	Corrected. Notifications	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Deaths
Small-Pox	0	0	0
Diphtheria	4	3	0
Scarlet Fever	41	33	0
Measles	4	0	0
Whooping-cough	7	0	0
Typhoid Fever	0	0	0
Paratyphoid Fever	1	1	0
Dysentery	0	0	0
Cerebro-spinal Fever	1	1	0
Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0	0
Encephalitis	0	0	0
Erysipelas	3	1	0
Acute Pneumonia	5	1	14
Puerperal Pyrexia	5	3	0
Ophthalmia neonatorum	0	0	0
Total	71	43	14

The figures given in the table are for corrected notifications, i.e. confirmed cases of the disease. The figure for deaths from pneumonia is not relatable to the figure for notifications: pneumonia is not infrequently entered as the cause of death in cases where there has been no notification.

The table shows that the town remained remarkably free from infectious disease throughout the year.

There were no cases of small-pox during the year. Nineteen contacts of cases occurring elsewhere were kept under surveillance.

The cases of diphtheria are of some interest, as exemplifying the difficulty of diagnosis that may arise in a child who is nearly, but not perfectly, immune to the disease: such children must be very frequent among those who have been artificially immunised some years before. One of the patients, a child of 12, had been immunised five years before: she was seen by her doctor on account of sore throat of some days' duration, and was hardly ill: the appearance of the throat at the time of first examination was not such as to suggest diphtheria - but a swab yielded virulent diphtheria-bacilli. This child did not require hospitalisation or specific treatment for diphtheria. The case must be classified as diphtheria, because the child had a sore throat and slight illness and was found to be harbouring diphtheria organisms. Such a case must therefore be returned as diphtheria in an immunised child: but what a contrast with the typical disease! Of the other three cases, two were of similar type: they were detained in hospital for three and four weeks respectively, as they were harbouring diphtheria organisms. The fourth case however was typical diphtheria of moderate severity in a boy of eight immunised three years previously.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

The numbers of children who completed a course of immunisation during the year 1946 are as follows :-

Primary Immunisation

Under 5 years old	386
5 - 14 years old	39
	<u>425</u>

Reinforcing ("booster") injection :- 217

The "immunisation state" of Redditch children on December 31st, 1946 was as follows:-

Age	0-1	1 -	2 -	3 -	4 -	5-9	10-15	Total
Number Immunised	10	240	420	349	406	1603	1267	4,295
Population (Approx.)	2,460					3,330		5,790
% Immunised	57.9%					86.2%		74.2%

The comparable percentage figures on December 31st, 1945 were :-

% Immunised	51.1%	79.5%	66.8%
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These figures relate only to children known to have been immunised; they are directly comparable with last year's figures, but not with those published in previous years, when an estimate was included of children immunised privately.

The figures are as yet far from ideal: particularly would one like to see a larger percentage of children under 5 years old protected. Nevertheless the percentage rates compare very favourably with those for most other Districts and for the whole country, thanks largely to the efforts of my predecessor, Dr. Follows.

Diphtheria Incidence and Mortality 1938 - 46		
Year	Cases	Deaths
1938	29	3
1939	46	2
1940	10	0
1941	12	2
1942	6	1
1943	6	0
1944	5	0
1945	4	1
1946	4	0

The effects of immunisation have been shown in Redditch as throughout the country, by a marked reduction in both the incidence and the mortality from diphtheria. At the same time the age-incidence of the disease has risen: once a disease of young children, it is now a disease of adolescents and young adults. This is an advantage, for diphtheria is more serious in younger children. The main reason for the raised age-incidence is that whereas so many of the younger children are protected, most adults are not. There is however accumulating evidence that the effect of immunisation wanes gradually as the child gets older; it would be surprising if this were not so. Consequently parents are now advised to have their children re-immunised on entering school. In the case of a child immunised at or before the age of 12 months, the optimum age for this so-called "booster" (or reinforcing) dose is five years. In the autumn of 1946 Head Teachers of Redditch schools were

advised as to the desirability of this re-immunisation, and with their co-operation and that of the parents a large number of children were re-immunised. At the same time, by arrangement with the County Medical Officer, a scheme was introduced to offer re-immunisation to all children in Infant Schools at the time of their first school medical examination.

The disease most frequently notified was scarlet fever. This was of a mild type and cases were spaced equally throughout the year; nor were they localised to any one part of the town. Thus there was a prevalence, rather than an epidemic, of the disease.

Measles was conspicuously absent, following a pronounced epidemic in the winter of 1944-5.

As regards non-notifiable infectious disease, information is naturally incomplete. "Influenza" became widely prevalent during January and February, and again in December: it appears to have been of a mild type, with little tendency to pneumonia or other complication. The December outbreak was characterised chiefly by bronchitis: it occurred as a definite epidemic among the children in one of the Nursery Schools, and in them the bronchitis followed upon an initial gastro-intestinal upset. Epidemic jaundice also affected this Nursery School during the winter of 1945-6, and there is some evidence that it was during the same period generally prevalent in the town: one would like to see this by no means trivial infectious disease made compulsorily notifiable.

Scabies

As reported last year, there was a considerable prevalence of this contagious skin-disease in Redditch in 1945, and it was accordingly proposed to open a Scabies Treatment Centre at which entire households could receive simultaneous treatment. There was however difficulty in obtaining suitable premises; and so as an interim measure a scheme of home-treatment was introduced. This scheme was described in last year's report, with a preliminary note on results. During 1946 it became increasingly apparent that the scheme of domiciliary treatment was adequate to deal with the problem of scabies in Redditch, and accordingly the idea of a special Treatment Centre was dropped.

The success of the scheme surpassed expectation in two important respects. Firstly, it was thought that there might be some difficulty in persuading entire households to undergo treatment: in practice there can - judging by results - have been but few defaulters in this respect, and this is a tribute to the tact and efficiency of the Nursing Assistant (a member of the County Council's staff) engaged in the work. Secondly, "relapses" were very few indeed. All cases are followed up at one and five weeks after treatment: the first re-examination provides evidence that treatment has been carried out and enables the Medical Officer to re-admit children to school; and the second examination aims at ascertaining that cure is complete. "Relapse" is due either to failure of treatment or to re-infestation. The examination at five weeks is believed to be adequate to exclude the former; but of course re-infestation - from an untreated contact or from the original source of infestation - can occur at any time. Fourteen households were followed-up at a time varying from 3 to 15 months after treatment, and no case of re-infestation was discovered: they were selected cases where the patient's skin was not perfectly clear one month after treatment.

Cases were treated under the Scheme during 1946, as follows :-

Households	55
Known cases	125
Contacts	155
Total persons	280

"Relapse" occurred in two cases, at intervals of 3 weeks and 4 months respectively after treatment; the first must be presumed a probable failure of treatment, while the second was almost certainly a re-infestation. In each case a second treatment of the household was successful.

A direct and obvious benefit of organised treatment for this troublesome condition has been a great reduction in time lost from school. It has very rarely been necessary to exclude a child for more than seven days: children with long-standing scabies may still show evidence of the disease at the end of this time, but no live itch-mites are to be found and the condition is no longer contagious.

Pediculosis.

The problem of head-lice in school-children is very inadequately met by the powers given to the Education Authority under the Education Act, 1944. To cleanse a child of lice requires care, skill and persistence, but it can be done: to keep it clear of lice, if the adults and older children at home are infested and remain untreated, is impossible. So the problem of head-lice, like that of scabies, can be solved only by treating the whole household as a unit: there are legal powers to do this under the Scabies Order. When the success of the home-treatment scheme for scabies made the opening of a Scabies Treatment Centre unnecessary, it was decided to defer also the provision of a Cleansing Centre for lice, since it was doubtful whether there would be work enough to justify a Centre for the one purpose only. Instead, the success of the scabies scheme prompted the Council to introduce - experimentally and for a limited period - a scheme for the domiciliary treatment of families with head-lice on exactly the same lines as that for scabies. Hair-cream containing 5% D.D.T. is supplied from the Clinic without charge for initial treatment, and typed instructions are given and verbally explained by the Nursing Assistant. This procedure was adopted in September 1946; by way of preliminary report the following comments are apposite :-

(1) Co-operation is less readily forthcoming than in the case of scabies. It would seem that while the patient with the "itch" is only too anxious to be cured, the subject of chronic head-~~louse~~ infestation is sometimes totally indifferent to the condition.

(2) The perfect treatment has yet to be found. One has found newly-hatched lice alive in heads soaked in D.D.T. hair-cream: probably they would have died within a few hours, but it is clear that the nits (eggs) are unaffected by D.D.T.

(3) Despite these considerations, head-lice are becoming increasingly rarer among Redditch school-children; fewer children are infested, and the individual children are much less heavily infested. A few children have to be kept under constant observation as "chronic offenders": these children have always a few nits, but only once in every few weeks are they found harbouring live lice. The significance of this is great; for it is believed that before the modern insecticides were introduced these relatively few children served as a focus from which large numbers of other school-children were being repeatedly infested, needing constant vigilance by all parents.

No cases of body-louse or crab-louse infestation were reported during the year.

Tuberculosis.

Tuberculosis is notifiable to the District Council, and Officers of the Public Health Department visit to advise as to measures to prevent the spread of the disease as in the case of other infectious diseases. Similarly homes are visited where death due to tuberculosis has occurred.

The Tuberculosis Service, for diagnosis, treatment, after-care, examination of contacts, etc., is provided by the County Council.

Tuberculosis Incidence and Mortality during 1946.

Age	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 -	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1 -	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
2 -	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5 -	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15 -	4	1	0	1	0	1	0	0
25 -	2	2	0	0	1	2	0	0
35 -	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	1
45 -	1	0	0	0	2	1	1	0
55 -	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
65 and over	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
TOTALS:-	11	5	0	1	5	4	1	1

The number of cases on the Register on December 31st. 1946 was :-

	M.	F.	Total	Total on December 31st. 1945.
Pulmonary	61	44	105	95
Non-Pulmonary	6	9	15	16
TOTAL:-	67	53	120	111

Your obedient servant,

L.J. BACON, M.A., M.D., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1946.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Redditch Urban District Council.

Mrs. Houfton and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my eighth annual report and, in doing so I am reminded of the improvements that are necessary in the town from a public health point of view but which are delayed by the brake on civil building. As necessary as that may be, the deterioration of the condition of dwelling houses is bound to follow. We are today in the unfortunate position of having to refuse applications for a licence to improve the public health standards of habitation which is normally diametrically opposed to our usual practice. This dormant period in public health progress reacts mostly on the people who live in unfit houses and where sanitation is of the primitive type. At present, all we can do is to patch and repair with the minimum of materials and substitutes available, and to carry out improvements we know are necessary as the opportunity occurs. A summary of the work of the department is as follows :-

<u>Inspections.</u>		
Animals Kept	-	
	Piggeries	282
	Stables	11
	Fowls, pigeons, etc.,	45
Complaints	-	
	Total No. investigated...	181
Dairies	-	
	Cowsheds	116
	Dairies	38
Disinfection	-	
	No. of houses disinfected	67
	No. of other buildings disinfected	3
Disinfestation	-	
	No. of houses infested with fleas and bugs	23
Drainage	-	
	No. of drains found choked	45
	No. of drains found defective	11
	No. of drains tested	17
	Visits to works in progress	69
Dwelling houses-		
	No. inspected re repairs.	227
	Re-inspections	323
	Inspections re overcrowding	18
	No. found dirty	23
	No. found verminous	23
	Inspections made re applications for building licences	577
Infectious Diseases	Visits re scarlet fever.	41
	" " diphtheria	4
	" " other diseases	27
Factories	-	
	With mechanised power	34
	Without mechanised power.	8
	Bakchouses	12
Food Premises	-	
	Butchers' Shops	87
	Preparation of potted meat etc.	4
	Manufacture and sale of ice cream	83
	Samples of ice cream taken for chemical & bacteriological examination.	28

Food Premises	-	Fruiterers	...	...	10
		Fishmongers and fried fish shops			14
		Restaurants and cafe kitchens			7
		Samples of milk taken for bacteriological examination.			62
Miscellaneous	-	No. of visits not otherwise			
Visits	-	classified	...		213
Shops Acts.	-	...	...	...	19
Tents, vans, sheds, etc.	-	...	...	...	18
Water supplies	-	Visits to premises re wells			23
		No. of samples taken	...		15
Total No. of inspections...					<u>2,555</u>

IMPROVEMENTS.

Houses generally repaired	...	...	83
Wash-houses repaired	...	...	18
Water closets repaired or renewed	...	...	41
Additional water closets provided	...	...	10
Houses cleansed	...	...	27
Verminous premises disinfested...	...	...	23
Drains reconstructed	...	...	10
Choked drains cleared	...	...	27
Dustbins provided	...	...	63
Accumulations removed	...	...	4
Cesspools emptied	...	...	8
Cesspools abolished	...	...	2
Wells abolished and mains supplied laid on			2

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS AND FLEAS.

Nineteen houses were found to be infested with bed bugs. D.D.T. is now used for disinfestation. The premises dealt with have been kept under observation and only in one case was a second treatment necessary. Four houses infested with fleas were dealt with. Again, D.D.T. is used and it was found to be very effective. Second treatments were not necessary. It is essential when dealing with verminous premises, particularly in the case of fleas, that the occupier thoroughly cleanse the house and the tenant is instructed accordingly.

MILK SUPPLY.

The Register contains 94 Retail Purveyors and 80 Wholesale Traders and Producers of which 4 are tuberculin tested and 11 accredited producers. Redditch is also supplied with tuberculin tested milk from three farms in the Bromsgrove Rural Area, namely Cofton Richards, Weights and Tack farms. The percentage of tuberculin tested milk is increasing and is now 11% of the milk supplied. 60% of the milk is sold as pasteurised or sterilized and the remaining 29% as raw undesignated milk.

A number of complaints are received of the poor keeping quality of milk supplied by some retailers in the town. Invariably, the complaints refer to milk produced outside the area and the local authority concerned is notified of these complaints, after which, some improvement is noted. Producers, at isolated farms particularly, could improve the keeping quality of their milk if they regularly sterilized their utensils and churns and kept the churn cool until collected. It is a common sight throughout the country to see churns on road platforms, in the full glare of the sun, waiting for collection.

Licences granted during the year under the Milk (Special Designations) Order are as follows:-

Pastourised (to bottle and sell)	1
Tuberculin Tested (Dealers)	2
Pasteurised (Dealers)	8

62 samples of milk, 28 pastourised, 31 tuberculin tested and 1 undesignated, were taken for examination. All of them were satisfactory.

WATER SUPPLIES.

Water is supplied throughout the district by The East Worcestershire Waterworks Company who supply water to the Council in bulk for distribution to Astwood Bank and Feckenham; two samples of mains water in circulation were taken and satisfactory reports received. Approximately 140 premises, including outlying farms and dwellings obtain their water from wells. At least 40% of these are shallow wells subject to surface pollution. Two such wells were abolished during the year and mains supplies laid on. Samples were taken from wells situated at Ipsley, Clayfields, Wadbury Hill, Brockhill, Alcester Road, Feckenham and White House Farm, Hunt End. Adverse reports were received in each case and all occupiers were advised to boil all drinking water until a more suitable supply can be provided.

Mr. F. H. Bullock, Water Engineer, East-Worcestershire Waterworks Company informs me that during 1946 the following extensions of water mains was carried out.

E.M.206.A.	94 yards of 4" main,	Batchley Road, Redditch.
E.M.253.	59 " " 4" "	Walkwood Road, Hunt End.
E.M.248.	48 " " 3" "	Off Meadow Hill Road, Redditch.
E.M.255.	100 " " 3" "	Watery Lane, Off Studley Road, Redditch.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

(a) Meat supplied in the town is received from the government controlled slaughterhouse at Alcester at which all food animals have been slaughtered since 1940. The meat is transported to the shops, the arrangements for which, the Ministry of Food are responsible. A number of inspections were made of the meat delivery van during the year and it was found on some occasions that the cleanliness of the vehicle was unsatisfactory. The floor of the vehicle is frequently contaminated by the attendants boots and in vehicles of this type, all meat should be wrapped. Frequent complaints are made by butchers of the dirty and contaminated condition of the meat delivered to the shops and the Health Committee after considering a report I submitted to the December meeting decided to forward it to the Ministry of Food. It is necessary to keep the meat delivery van under constant supervision. 209 notifications were received of the slaughter of cottagers pigs, 121 of which were inspected. The following is a list of the edgetuffs surrendered as unfit for human consumption :-

Tinned Milk	...	...	172 tins
Tinned Fish	...	...	87 "
Tinned Meat	...	...	33 "
Tinned Vegetables	...	...	82 "
Tinned Fruit	...	...	3 "
Sausage	...	...	136 lbs.
Pork pies	...	...	84 "
Steak pies	...	...	66 "
Grosvenor pie	...	...	9 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.
Meat	...	...	198 "

Pigd heads & plucks	...	...	3
Fish	...	...	200 lbs.
Jam	...	...	25 "
Confectionary Chocolate	...	...	198 "
Bacon	...	...	108 $\frac{1}{4}$ "
Fruit	...	...	175 "
Cheese	...	...	3 "
Ham	...	...	29 "
Flour	...	...	280 "
Black Pudding	...	...	46 "
Fish Cakes	...	...	144 "
Eggs	...	...	165 "

(b) ICE CREAM.

38 premises are registered to retail ice cream and of these 16 are registered to manufacture. During the year 83 inspections were made and 28 samples taken for analysis. It was noted in the first dozen samples taken that four had high plate counts and B. Coli was present in 1/1000th. of a ml. in 6 samples. With no official standard of cleanliness it was considered that samples having a plate count exceeding 200,000 and B. Coli present in less than 1/10th. ml. were cases where improvement was necessary. Some improvement will be noted in the later samples. The results compare favourably with the sampling carried out throughout the country. The analysis of the samples is as follows :-

Sample No.	Name and address.	Organisms growing on Agar at 37°C in two days.	Coliform organisms	Fat %
14	E.M. Taylor, 104, Rectory Road.	150,000	Present in 1 & 1/10th. ml.	1.1
15	J.W. Brazil, 104, Birchfield Rd.	30,000	Present in 1 ml.	1.8
16	Redditch U.D.C.	45,000	Absent	7.1
17	C.M. Williams, 49, Alcester St.,	320,000	Absent	2.3
18	Milk Bar, Evesham Street.	25,000	Present in 1/1000th. ml.	0.2
19	W. Ames, 16, Market Place,	840,000	Present in 1/1000th. ml.	2.0
20	H. Canham, Alcester Street.	28,500	Present in 1/10th. ml.	0.1
21	M.M. Newell, 95b, Mount Pleasant,	92,000	Present in 1/1000th. ml.	0.1
27	Woolworths, Market Place,	Nil per ml.	Nil per ml.	9.9
28	Mrs. Laity, 10, Mount Pleasant,	110,000	Present in 1/1000th. ml.	3.2
29	T.P. Ellis, The Parade,	920,000	Present in 1/1000th. ml.	2.6
30	Cresswell, Studley Road,	1,000,000	Present in 1/1000th. ml.	3.5
31	Mrs. Laity, 10, Mount Pleasant,	22,000	Present in 1/100th. ml.	1.2

Sample No.	Name and Address	Organisms growing on Agar at 37°C in two days	Coliform organisms	Fat %
32	Lyons - Marple 292, Evesham Road.	14,000	Absent in 1 ml.	8.3
38	Gregory, Grove St.,	9,800	Absent in 1 ml.	4.1
39	D.S. Williams, Alcester Street.	1,000	Absent in 1 ml.	4.1
40	Cresswell, Studley Road.	88,000	Absent in 1 ml.	3.0
41	M.M. Newell, Mount Pleasant,	115,000	Present in 1 & 1/10th ml.	0.2
49	Ellis, The Parade.	240,000	Present in 1/100th ml.	3.4
50	Ames, Market Place.	320,000	Present in 1/100th ml.	2.9
56	E.M. Taylor, Rectory Road,	80,000	Present in 1/1000th ml.	2.2
57	J.W. Brazil, 104, Birchfield Road	4,000	Present in 1 ml.	2.4
58	S. Wilkinson, Mason Road. . .	50,000	Present in 1/100th ml.	2.6
61	E. Dixons Ltd., Milk Bar, Evesham St.,	1,000	Absent in 1 ml.	4.0
62	H. Canham, Alcester St.,	8,500	Present in 1 ml. Absent in 1/10th ml.	0.2
69	Redditch British Restaurant	140,000	Present in 1/100th ml. Absent in 1/1000th ml.	1.7
71	D.S. Williams, 47, Alcester Street.	160,000	Present in 1 ml. Absent in 1/10th ml.	4.2
72	R.M. Maries, 32, Alcester Street,	280,000	Absent in 1 ml.	6.0

RODENT CONTROL.

The County Council have delegated their powers under the Infestation Order to the Council with the exception of agricultural premises which are dealt with by the War Agricultural Committee. Infestations found on farms and smallholdings are referred to them for treatment and if disinfestations are being carried out on adjoining private or business premises the pest officers of the War Agricultural Committee co-ordinate to carry out their treatments at the same time.

Local authority premises such as refuse tips and sewage works are regularly inspected and treated when necessary. During the period under review a total of 3,305 premises were inspected

comprising 2,969 private dwellings, 316 business premises and 20 Local Authority premises. Of these, 2,991 premises, comprising 2,749 private dwellings, 236 business premises and 6 Local Authority premises were inspected under the Domestic Premises Survey Scheme. In all, 20 Major Infestations and 359 Minor Infestations of Rats and 12 Minor Infestations of Mice were discovered. Of these, 8 Major and 317 Minor Infestations of Rats and 7 Infestations of Mice were found during the Domestic Premises Survey.

Treatment.

A total of 20 major and 117 minor infestations of rats and 12 minor infestations of mice were successfully treated during the year leaving a balance of 242 minor infestations of rats to be dealt with. The number of treatments carried out since the adoption of the Domestic Premises Survey Scheme being 17 major and 99 minor infestations of rats and 8 minor infestations of mice; these figures are included in the total number of treatments mentioned above.

Sewer Maintenance.

Two Sewer Maintenance Treatments were carried out during the year involving the baiting of 415 manholes. The system adopted on each treatment was as follows.

Areas found infested during the previous treatment were again baited plus ten per cent of the manholes not included in such previous treatment. In cases where a complete "take" of the bait occurred the manhole affected, together with two manholes on each side of it, were baited for two days with ordinary bait and poisoned bait was then laid on the third day. Where there was only a partial "take" the manhole affected, together with one manhole on each side of it, were treated in an exactly similar manner. 157 manholes were baited during the first maintenance treatment and 258 during the second treatment.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.

(a)	Number of pail closets converted into water closets	7
	Number of trough closets converted into water closets	Nil
	Analysis of sanitary accommodation at the end of 1946	
	Water closets	5326
	Automatically flushed W.Cs.	357
	Waste water closets	16
	Shop closets	97
	Pail closets	472
	Earth closets	17

During heavy storms it is found that sewage back pounds from the gullies and water closets of the houses at the lowest levels in the Meadway and Rookery Road, Headless Cross. An inspection was made of these premises on the 8th. September, 1946 and a report was submitted to the Health Committee held on the 11th. September. It was decided to refer the matter to the Public Works Committee for their consideration, but up to the present, no improvement has been effected.

During the year, 2518 yards of 9" and 1959 yards of 6" foul sewer pipes were laid on the Mayfields Estate.

(b) Pail Closet Conversions.

Detail inspections were made of all pail closets involving 210 houses, where the sewer is available. Information has been collated and recorded including a plan of each dwelling or block of buildings and the suggested drainage for the conversions. During the year 7 pail closets were abolished and separate water-closets provided for the ten houses involved. In each case, each house was also provided with an internal water supply. A scheme cannot be implemented at present to convert the remaining pail closets because of the acute shortage of materials, but every effort is being made to convert pail closets where the premises are not provided with separate accommodation.

The Council regularly empty 323 pail closets provided for 341 premises. The majority of these houses have separate accommodation and 38 premises have common accommodation (20 pails).

Of the 341 premises remaining, 200 can be connected to the sewer, and of the 141 premises where the sewer is not available, 56 can be connected to the sewers where reasonable extensions are carried out.

AMBULANCE.

The Council decided to provide a free ambulance service for 50 miles return journey after which the charge is 1/- per mile. This applies to Redditch residents and contributors to the Smallwood Hospital Saturday Fund who reside outside the Urban Area. Otherwise, the charge is 1/7d. per mile. A Mutual Aid Scheme is provided between Redditch, Bromsgrove and Droitwich.

The Ambulance Account for the year ending 31st. March, 1947 is as follows :-

	£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.
Wages ...	712.	12.	10.	Contribution from			
Maintenance & Repairs.	186.	10.	4.	Hospital Board...	550.	0.	0.
Plant & Depreciation.	170.	0.	0.	Fees..	246.	18.	8.
First Aid Equipment.	13.	8.	10.	Less			
Laundry ...	2.	14.	6.	written			
Insurances ...	12.	2.	7.	of ...	135.	4.	2.
Petrol ...	176.	1.	8.		<u>111.</u>	<u>10.</u>	<u>6.</u>
Telephone ...	44.	16.	7.		661.	10.	6.
A.P.S. & Miscellaneous.	11.	16.	0.	Deficiency for			
Alteration to Garage .	14.	2.	11.	year ...	742.	9.	6.
Gas, Electricity and							
Water ...	25.	10.	8.				
Rates & Taxes ...	8.	8.	0.				
National Insurances.	12.	14.	7.				
Hire of Ambulance.	13.	0.	6.				
	<u>£1,404.</u>	<u>0.</u>	<u>0.</u>		<u>£1,404.</u>	<u>0.</u>	<u>0.</u>

Report on cases dealt with for the year 1946 :-

18,355 Miles were covered by the Ambulance car.

96 Accident cases were attended to.

179 Medical " " " "

428 Surgical " " " "

129 Maternity " " " "

1 Mental " " " "

3 Coroner's " " " "

Making a TOTAL of 764 cases attended and conveyed to various Hospitals, conveying 861 patients.

34 cases conveyed for Worcs. County Council, P.A.D.

Nil " " " Warcs. " " P.A.C.

73 Night service cases attended.

Amount due:- £217. 7. 8d.

Remarks:- District Nurse on 77 Maternity Cases and 1 Surgical Case.

B.S.A. conveyed one case.

HOUSING.

INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	448
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	544
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932.. ...	Nil
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	Nil
(3)		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous of injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation..	221
(4)		Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation..	127

REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 59

ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

(a) PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs. 4

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal Notices :-		
(a) By Owners	...	4
(b) By local authority in default of Owners		Nil
(b) PROCEEDINGS UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.		
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied		24
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal Notices:-		
(a) By Owners	...	24
(b) By local authority in default of owners		Nil
(c) PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTIONS 11 and 13 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936.		
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made..		Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders		Nil
(1) PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 12 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936.		
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made		Nil
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit		Nil
<u>HOUSING ACT, 1936. PART IV. OVERCROWDING.</u>		
(a)	(1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	95
	(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	95
	(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	736
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	23
(c)	(i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	6
	(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	25
(d)	Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	Nil

This does not indicate the true position of overcrowding in the district, and there are a large number of cases of which full details are not known. Owing to shortage of staff it is impossible to keep an up-to-date record of the overcrowding position where so many families are changing houses, removing from or to the town every week.

FACTORIES.

1. INSPECTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH.

Premises (1)	Number of			
	No. on Register (2)	Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
FACTORIES, with mechanical power.	174	34	Nil	Nil
FACTORIES, without mechanical power.	47	8	Nil	Nil
x OTHER PREMISES, under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction, but not including outworkers' premises.	5	3	Nil	Nil
x Electrical Stations should be reckoned as factories.				
TOTAL :	226	45	Nil	Nil

2. DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars (1)	Number of defects.			Number of offences in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted. (5)
	Found. (2)	Remodied. (3)	Referred to H. M. Inspector. (4)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	3	3	Nil	Nil
Overcrowding (S.2)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	1	1	Nil	Nil
Sanitary conveniences (S.7) insufficient	6	6	Nil	Nil
unsuitable or defective	11	11	Nil	Nil
not separate for sexes	3	3	Nil	Nil
Other offences	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
TOTAL :	24	24	Nil	Nil

BATHING STATION.

Since the cessation of hostilities the cleansing station, Evosham Street, has been opened on Wednesday evenings and used as a bathing station for males from 7 - 9 p.m. It has been manned by personnel from the first party which carried out civil defence duties at the South Street first aid post. The station was also used occasionally by troops in the neighbourhood and arrangements were made to open the station for them when they required it. During the year there were 141 attendances.

I take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee and my colleagues for their support and assistance rendered to me in the execution of my duties.

I am, Mrs. Houfton and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

G. H. CHAMPION,

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

